



National Archives and Records Administration

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Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

Record Group 330

Series: Records of Prime Contracts Awarded by the Military Services and Agencies (DCADS)

What information is in these records?

This series contains information about contracts for goods and services between the private sector and the military services and agencies of the Department of Defense. Department of Defense (DD) Forms DD 350 and DD 1057 are the sources of the data. There is a record for each contract with information derived from DD Form 350, the Individual Contracting Action Report. The DD 350 is used in every fiscal year (FY). The DD 1057, the Monthly Summary of Contracting Actions, provides information on the total number of contracting actions and total number of dollars by month for each of the military services and agencies. There is a record for each of the contract categories listed in the DD 1057. The use of the DD 1057 began in FY 1984 and is included in every subsequent FY.

From FY 1976 to 1983, the records encompass armed forces procurement contracts with a value of \$10,000 or larger. Beginning in FY 1983, the records encompass military contracts with a value of \$25,000 or more. The specific information collected on DD Form 350, and thus represented in these records, varied somewhat over time. Each contract record potentially provides information about the following topics involved in defense spending: system administration; reporting dates; the government purchasing or contracting office, the business name of the government contractor, description of the military supplies, systems, or services for which contracted, and its dollar value; and type of procurement, including whether competitively bid, and whether the contract awardee was a foreign firm, minority business, small business, or women-owned business. Beginning in fiscal year 1984, the records contain more detailed data in most of the above categories.

Why were these records created?

The agency created the database to provide administrative and management control over military supplies and services procurements within the Department of Defense. The agency also used these data to prepare special reports to the President, the Secretary of Defense, the Congress, and to private industry.

Why do a number of records have only a small number of fields with data and a large number of fields with blanks?

Records with a large number of blanks contain information whose source was the Department of Defense (DD) Form 1057. The purpose of the DD Form 1057 was to provide monthly summary information and those records do not have data in all of the fields. For information about DD Form 1057 please see the scanned documentation.

How do these records differ from the original contracts?

For this database, the Department of Defense took information from contract documents to create each record about a contract. They did this to have a systematic source for managing information

about all Department of Defense contracts. Hence, these records are separate from but related to the original contracts.

How can I access the original contracts documented in these records?

In general, individual paper contracts are appraised as temporary records so they are destroyed after a set period of time upon completion of the contract. Since the paper contract records are usually temporary records, it is very unlikely that they have been accessioned by NARA. If NARA has accessioned the individual contracts, they would be in the custody of NARA's Textual Archives Services Division. If the contracts have not been accessioned by NARA, they may still be in the custody of the agency that created them.

April 26, 2006